

years later, one farm worker feeds 56 of his fellow Canadians. Few other industries can cite such a record.

I want to make it clear, because I am not afraid to speak my mind on this matter, that I am not opposed to marketing boards. They are perfectly O.K. providing they are properly run. The Ontario Milk Marketing Board is an excellent case in point. It has brought stability to that industry. Its decisions are made in conjunction with the senior members of committees throughout the entire province, and only after it has consulted with all these people does it make decisions that affect the whole industry. This is not to say that some marketing boards are perhaps not run by idiots; but for the most part I am not opposed to marketing boards per se.

● (1730)

That might sound like I am a good friend of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan). The minister and I agree on one point. He portrays himself as a friend of the farmer, and that is certainly how I stand. As a matter of fact the minister visited my riding recently, at which time I introduced him to the assembled people as not a bad egg. That seemed to suit the situation at the time.

The minister spoke at some length, and basically what he said was that he wants to improve conditions for the farmers. That is exactly what I want. At other times he has asked for increased food prices. There I think he is misguided. I do not think there is a need for increased food prices. One must remember that farmers are consumers as well as producers, and no farmer in this present day and age provides all his own food. They want lower prices, but they want to make a profit at lower prices.

Where is the stability this industry needs, and where are the long-term policies? Is the minister saying one thing in public and a different thing in cabinet? Is the cabinet not aware of the situation, or does it just not care what happens to the farmers in this country? Either way we are not getting the policies required.

This country will not have seen a crisis, whether it be energy or otherwise, until such time as it has experienced the crisis which will occur if there is no food available. If the problems that beset the dairy industry, the beef farmer, the turkey farmer, the egg producer and the grain farmer, with all our strikes, are not looked after now properly with long-term policies, mark my words, when the housewife goes into the market and cannot buy food for her family, then we will see a crisis. I do not care whether you blame the minister, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), the cabinet or the civil service, I want them to get at these problems before it is too late.

On looking at the throne speech, I am afraid that the reintroduction of the Food Prices Review Board is not the way to solve these problems. This useless service is one that any housewife could perform. She knows how to go into the supermarkets and compare prices. You could send a group of students out and get exactly the same results. In my opinion the Food Prices Review Board serves only one purpose; it accepts and absorbs the scorn of which this government is properly deserving. These things are all related to the problems of my riding, and I am sure they are not much different from the problems faced by other ridings in southeastern Ontario.

The Address—Mr. Ellis

For a moment I should like to move on to a subject in which I have some interest, and that is the Department of Public Works which, with its almost 9,000 staff and a budget of over \$500 million, is one of the largest departments of government. It is also very vulnerable in that the end results of its endeavours are open to full public scrutiny.

In general the Department of Public Works is reasonably efficient and maintains a reasonably good image. Abuses and patronage in the department have been reduced greatly, if not completely abolished in recent years, but there are some changes and improvements which, in my opinion, are essential.

The main one is that budgets for space and service must become the responsibility of each government department, thus putting the Department of Public Works on an essentially revenue dependent basis. Much of the criticism of the department by the Auditor General involves space ordered but not used. There will be obvious economies in having the budget of each department reflect not only the amount of space but the quality and level of opulence. If the Department of External Affairs wants the biggest chocolate cake in Ottawa, the finest offices, then let us show this in its budget, and let that department be responsible for it. Let us not bury this in the estimates of the Department of Public Works.

Acceptance of this proposal would allow one of the recommendations of the Glassco Commission which was never carried out to be implemented. That is to say, there should be a property accounting on both a quantitative and monetary basis, using proper accrual methods of accountings and recognizing depreciation when appropriate.

While answering to the Treasury Board in an over-all manner, all land and building services and management transactions must become the responsibility of the Department of Public Works. Keeping in mind current levels of involvement, there can be no justification for duplication of services such as found in the Department of National Defence, which still does a good deal of its own accommodations' seeking and construction.

In my opinion the Department of Public Works should be divested of all responsibility for a marine program. This is a duplication in fact and in function, if not in method of financing, of services provided by the Department of Transport, the National Harbours Board and the Departments of the Environment and Fisheries. If the Department of Public Works is called upon to act as contractor for these departments, that is fine, but it should not be the direct department responsible. The same can be said of the responsibility of the Department of Public Works for transportation programs. This is a duplication in fact and function of the services provided by the Department of Transport.

The fine arts program of the Department of Public Works, while admirable in concept, needs further refinement and greater input from public sources other than those directly involved. The public will not accept the use of rusty pipes and swiftly deteriorating free forms of plastic as art forms.